

## Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 ABU DH 01528 301100Z  
ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 /020 W  
-----011826 301117Z /20  
R 300810Z MAY 78  
FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7909  
USDOC WASHDC

UNCLAS ABU DHABI 1528

E O. 11652: NA  
TAGS: EWWT, TC  
SUBJ: THE UAE DRAFT MARITIME LAW.

REF: 77 ABU DHABI A-07

1. ON APRIL 20, 1978, LOCAL PAPERS CARRIED STORES THAT UAE  
WAS CONSIDERING A DRAFT MARITIME LAW. ARTICLES SAID THAT LAW  
DEFINES:

- (1) OWNERSHIP AND NATIONALITY OF SHIPS;
- (2) RELIEF AND RESCUE;
- (3) INSURANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY IN CASE OF ACCIDENT;
- (4) PERCENTAGE OF OWNERSHIP BY UAE NATIONALS THAT ENTITLES  
VESSEL TO UAE FLAG.

2. SHIPPING INDUSTRY SOURCES HAD LITTLE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT  
THIS LAW. THOSE CONSULTED SAID THEY WERE NOT AWARE OF ANY  
PROPOSED CARGO PREFERENCE PROVISION BUT THAT ABU DHABI NATIONAL OIL  
COMPANY (ADNOC) ROUTED CARGOS ABOARD UNITED ARAB SHIPPING COMPANY  
(UASC) BOTTOMS WHENEVER POSSIBLE. THEY SOMETIMES STIPULATE ON  
LETTERS OF CREDIT THAT UASC BOTTOMS BE USED IF AVAILABLE. UASC  
HAS SEVERAL TANKERS IN OPERATION AND ABOUT 20 GENERAL CARGO  
VESSELS UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN BRITISH YARDS OR ALREADY COMPLETED.

3. ONE SOURCE SAID THAT IMPETUS FOR NEW LAW CAME WHEN UAE AGRICULTURE  
AND FISHING MINISTRY ATTEMPTED TO LEVY DH5/HP TAX (US DOL).0  
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P  
EQUALS DH 3.89) ON 20,000 HP ADNOC TANKER. TAX RATE WAS THAT  
APPLIED TO DHOWS WHERE DRAFT, BEAM, AND NET REGISTERED TONNAGE  
COULD VARY CONSIDERABLY BUT HORSEPOWER WAS STAMPED ON THE ENGINES.  
ADNOC PROTESTED THAT TAX OF DH 100,000 WAS RATHER STEEP FOR A SHIP  
OWNED BY NATIONAL COMPANY ATTEMPTING TO REGISTER UNDER UAE FLAG  
AND WOULD SEEM MORE APPROPRIATE TO VESSELS REGISTERED UNDER A FLAG

OF CONVENIENCE.

4. POST WILL REPORT ON CONTENTS OF NEW LAW ONCE IT SEEMS APPARENT  
THAT IT WILL COME INTO FORCE OR AS NEW DEVELOPMENTS ARISE THAT  
MERIT WASHINGTON'S ATTENTION.  
DICKMAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** MARITIME LAW, AGREEMENT DRAFT  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 30 may 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** n/a  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:**  
**Disposition Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Reference:** 77 ABU DHABI A-7  
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**TAGS:** EWWT, TC  
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**Review Markings:**  
Sheryl P. Walter  
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